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TAGS: PGOV KDEM CG ELECTIONS

SUBJECT: DRC ELECTIONS: 57 PERCENT OF DISTRICTS REPORTING,
KABILA STILL LEADING VOTE

¶1. (U) Votes from 57 percent of the DRC's electoral districts have now been tabulated. President Joseph Kabila has received 62.3 percent of the votes counted, Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba 37.7 percent. More than half these votes come from Kabila's eastern strongholds. The total number of valid votes counted to date is 8.8 million.

¶2. (U) As of November 8, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has released results from 92 electoral districts: 46 are from the east, 33 from the west. All votes from Kinshasa have now been tabulated. Thirteen districts have been reported from the centrally-located Kasai region.

¶3. (U) Kabila's support continues to be drawn primarily from the east, Bemba's from the west and center. Kabila has won 92 percent of the votes tallied from Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces. Bemba has won 74 percent of the vote thus far reported from Bandundu, Bas-Congo, Equateur, and Kinshasa, as well as 93 percent in Eastern and Western Kasai.

¶4. (U) Kabila's percentages continue to increase compared to the July 30 election in the Kinshasa and Bandundu bases of his ally Antoine Gizenga. He has won 30 percent of the vote reported thus far in Bandundu versus the three percent he won in the first round. Provisional results for Kinshasa show Kabila's share increased to 32 percent from the 15 percent he garnered July 30.

¶5. (U) Average turnout rate in the 92 districts is nearly 64 percent of eligible voters, compared to 71 percent nationwide in the first round. Participation in the 46 eastern districts is down six percent, while in the 33 western districts it is down 15 percent. Turnout rates in the 13 Kasai districts that have thus far reported have risen approximately 12 percent.

¶6. (SBU) Comment: With the count skewed toward eastern regions where Kabila is heavily favored, more figures from Bandundu, Equateur, and the Kasais will be needed before any conclusions can be drawn about the final result. End comment.
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